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[George F. Sims]

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WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Negro lore Negro stuff

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 4/20/38

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Project worker Garnett L. Eskew

Project editor

Remarks

W3634

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview [?]

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

[?]

May 26 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Garnett L. Eskew

ADDRESS 4700 Kenwood Avenue

DATE April 20, 1939

SUBJECT Folklore - Negro Stuff

Library of Congress

1. Date and time of interview -

April 20, 1939, 8:30 A.M., (called 3 times before I found him)

2. Place of interview-

6034 May Street (South)

3. Name and address of informant-

George F. Sims, 6034 May Street, (colored)

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. -

Mrs. Noel Collins (colored) Evangelist

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. -

Sims and his married daughter, her husband and children occupy the 3rd floor of a fairly neat house. Comfortable living room, well furnished and heated by a big nickel trimmed stove. It is a strictly negro neighborhood but unusually good - mostly one and two-story cottages.

(Use as many additional sheets as necessary, for any of the forms, each bearing the proper heading and the number to which the material refers.)

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

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FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Garnett L. Eskew

ADDRESS 4700 Kenwood Avenue

DATE April 20, 1939

SUBJECT Folklore - Negro Stuff

NAME OF INFORMANT George F. Sims

1. Ancestry -

African - been a hundred and fifty years in New Orleans and nearby parishes.

2. Place and date of birth -

Houma, Louisiana, 1869

3. Family -

wife, two married children and a herd of grandchildren.

4. Places lived in, with dates -

New Orleans and the parishes until 1933, but was rarely at home, being either on river boats or on seagoing ships.

5. Education, with dates -

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Grade schools of New Orleans. Talks pretty well, can read and write understandably.

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates -

Steamboat roustabout - Captain of the Watch; assistant engineer on ocean tugs - Clyde Line Steamship (30 years)

7. Special skills and interests-

Understands engines and knows boats and ships.

8. Community and religious activities -

Goes to church and sings in choir.

9. Description of informant-

Pleasing, very black wrinkled face; a powerful body, smiles readily. Talks interestingly with a strong dialect.

10. Other Points gained in interview -

That negroes of this kind are a credit to community. He is useful, intelligent, upright and courteous.

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

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CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Garnett L. Eskew

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NAME OF INFORMANT George F. Sims

"Work? Lord, I haint done no work sense I come to Chicago 6 years ago. I done work all my life and I am going to rest now. The Bible say a man should rest when he gits be three score and ten. Dot's what I am now. So I stays home with my family. I got a fine wife and family. I likes Chicago alright but it sure do get cold in winter.

"De first job I ever had in my life - I was 16 - I left my daddy's store on Dryades Street in [?] walk right down to the river and git me a job roustin' on the Resolute; she run up to Memphis. From dat time on I work on boats. I work on de Jesse K. Bell (we uster call her de Jesse Ketch Hell) and the Oliver Bie and the Sunrise and the T. [B?]

I got along all right, too, 'cept once when dey give us spoiled meat to eat on de "Resolute" and I quit and got me a [?] and made 'em pay me for all de time I didn't work and pay my hoispital bill too. That bad meat made me sick.

"Den I went to sea - on de Clyde Line Boats and the United Company boats: to New York and Philly and Panama. Went down to Honduras one time. Nother time went to Frisco. I

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was engineer's assistant's and everybody I work for like me. I get along well with White Folks.